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## ***Water System Design Criteria***

**Bernalillo County** does not follow **Chapter 25** of the **DPM**.

The primary documents for **water design** in **Bernalillo County** are **Chapter 86 Utilities** and **Chapter 42, Division 11 Water Wells** in the **Bernalillo County Code of Ordinances**. You may access **Chapter 86** at the following link:

[www.municode.com/library](http://www.municode.com/library)

Most of **Bernalillo County** is **rural**. In general, wells are allowed for drinking water on lots that are  $\frac{3}{4}$  acre or larger. More expensive advanced sewage treatment methods may be available for smaller lots. Much of the **urban** area around the fringe of the **City of Albuquerque**, outside of the **Albuquerque City Limits**, is serviced by the **ABCWUA** water distribution system.

Because water is an increasingly scarce resource in the region, **Bernalillo County** has enacted a very aggressive **Water Conservation Plan**. This plan requires that all building permit applications and construction drawings be submitted to **Bernalillo County Natural Resource Services** for review. This ensures that all development meets **Bernalillo County's** strict water conservation rules.

### **1. ABCWUA WATER CONNECTIONS**

If your project is near an existing **ABCWUA** water line, you may connect to the water distribution system, although there is no requirement to do so. Use **Chapter 24** of the **DPM** if you are designing water infrastructure that will tie to the **ABCWUA** network. You should also consult the **latest version** of the **Albuquerque Standard Specifications for Public Works Construction**. Contact **ABCWUA** at **(505) 924-3989** to determine if your project is within an **ABCWUA** service area.

**Backflow preventers** are required on all new water meters in certain zones in or near the Rio Grande Valley. They are also required on all sites that have a well or that previously had a well. Contact **ABCWUA** to determine if you are in a zone that requires backflow preventers.

You will need to obtain a **Water Availability Statement** from **ABCWUA** before receiving approval to connect. See **How to Obtain a Water and Sewer Availability Statement** in the back of this Chapter.

Water plans are submitted to **BCPWD** and reviewed by **DR**. They are routed to **ABCWUA** for review and comment.

**Pro Rata Charges:** Pro-rata charges are defined as that portion of the installation cost for sanitary sewer and water lines constructed by third parties which is due from those who later connect to these lines. Unlike the **City of Albuquerque**, **Bernalillo County** is not involved in the pro-rata process. If you are building a project outside of the **City of Albuquerque** limits, you must submit **Figure 8** and **Figure 21** found in **Chapter 5** of the **DPM** to the **ABCWUA** so the agency can establish pro-rata. Call **505-924-3987** for more information.

## **2. WELL INSTALLATION**

Wells may be drilled on lots that are  $\frac{3}{4}$  acre or larger. You are required to obtain **two permits** to drill a well:

- First: Obtain a **Well Permit** from the **Office of the State Engineer** (call 505-841-9480 for information).
- After you obtain the first permit, apply for a **Well Permit** from **Bernalillo County Natural Resource Services** (call **505-314-0310** for information).

## **3. PRIVATELY-OWNED WATER TREATMENT FACILITIES**

Contact **Bernalillo County Natural Resource Services** at **505-314-0310** regarding the design, construction and maintenance of privately-owned water treatment facilities.

Acceptable design criteria for privately-owned water treatment facilities may include the following:

- **Chapter 86 Utilities** in the **Bernalillo County Code of Ordinances**
- **Chapter 42, Division 11 Water Wells** in the **Bernalillo County Code of Ordinances**
- **New Mexico Standard Specifications for Public Works Construction** (published by the New Mexico chapter of the American Public Works Association)

## **4. WATER CONSERVATION**

All **building permit applications** and **construction drawings** are routed to **Bernalillo County Natural Resource Services** for review. Depending on the nature of your project, **Natural Resource Services** will determine whether or not you need to submit a **Water Conservation Package**.

Most projects, including **single residences, subdivisions, and commercial or industrial developments**, will require a **Water Conservation Package**. In most cases, only very simple projects (i.e., fence, driveway, etc.) will be exempt from this requirement. In general, if a project has **interior plumbing or landscaping**, a **Water Conservation Package** is required.

Typically, a **Water Conservation Package** consists of the following:

- **Bernalillo County Water Conservation Worksheet**
- Irrigation Plan
- Floor Plan
- Plumbing Plan
- Site Plan

The **Water Conservation Worksheet** requirement may be waived if you can provide one of the following:

- Green Build Bronze Certification
- Documentation of use of EPA WaterSense fixtures and Energy Star appliances

See the following documents **at the back of this chapter** for more information about the **Bernalillo County Water Conservation Requirements**:

- **New Residential Water Conservation Requirements**
- **Residential Water Conservation Requirements Worksheet**

**Call Bernalillo County Natural Resource Services at 505-848-1500 for more information.**

The following **Bernalillo County** publications are available to help you with your **Water Conservation Package**:

- **Bernalillo County Water Conservation Development Standards and Guidelines**
- **Bernalillo County Water Conservation Worksheet**